

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
AND NEBRASKA LICENSED WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

Pursuant to the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act ("Act"), the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources ("Department") hereby provides notice that the Department, in accordance with the Act:

- 1) Has made a final determination that the following surface water portions of the Platte River Basin are fully appropriated:
 - a) all portions of the Platte River Basin upstream of the Loup River confluence that are in the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District and are downstream (east) of the portion of that District that was designated by the Department as "overappropriated" on September 15, 2004;
 - b) all portions of the Platte River Basin that are in the Little Blue Natural Resources District; and
 - c) all portions of the Platte River Basin that are in the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District ("UBBNRD") and are upstream of the confluence of the Loup River with the Platte River.
- 2) Has made a final determination that the geographic areas in which the surface water and ground water are hydrologically connected, which include the entire geographic area within the 10/50 area in Kearney and Phelps counties, based on the Cooperative Hydrology Study model, and within the 10/50 area in Hamilton County, based on the UBBNRD model, are fully appropriated; and
- 3) Has continued stays on new uses of surface water and on increases in the number of surface water irrigated acres that were effective as a result of the Department's December 30, 2005, preliminary determination, and notified the affected Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) that stays on new uses of ground water and on increases in the number of ground water irrigated acres will remain in effect except for the stays that were in place on 188 sections which were referenced in the Department's Notice of Hearing dated March 2, 2005, and were determined to be not hydrologically connected following the Department's hearing in this matter (the "Excluded Sections").

For further information regarding the Department's final determination, the geographic area subject to the actions described herein, and a list of the statutory exceptions to the stays, please refer to the Department's web site, at <http://www.dnr.ne.gov>, and/or the affected NRDs.

The stays on the Excluded Sections expired April 21, 2006. All other stays referenced herein shall remain in effect until (a) they are terminated pursuant to the Act, (b) an integrated management plan for the affected area has been adopted and has taken effect, (c) the Department has completed a reevaluation of the area and has determined that the affected area is not fully appropriated, or (d) the stays expire pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

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